

CLAIMS

1. A communication system comprising:
 - a user equipment;
 - an access network to which said user equipment is attachable; and
 - an access controller connected to said access network and a domain,
 - said access controller arranged to receive a query from said user equipment for a service provided by said domain or a service accessible via said domain, to determine if said user equipment is authorized and, if so, to permit said user equipment to obtain said service from or via said domain.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said access network comprises one of:
 - an IP based network independent of access method;
 - a WLAN;
 - a DSL network;
 - an Ethernet;
 - a GPRS network;
 - a 3G network; and
 - a Bluetooth network.
3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said domain is a mobile operator operated domain.
4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said query comprises a DNS query.

5. A system as claimed in claim 1, comprising an authorization server function wherein said access controller is arranged to authorize said user equipment by communication with said authorization server function.

6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said authorization server function comprises information defining a profile for said user equipment.

7. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said authorization server function is arranged to provide attributes to said access controller, said access controller arranged to determine session parameters for said user equipment based on said attributes.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said access controller is arranged to provide an authorization function if said query received from said user equipment identifies said access controller.

9. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said access controller is arranged to provide an authorization function if said query received from said user identifies said access controller as a primary domain name server.

10. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said query comprises a DHCP query.

11. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein if the access controller determines that said user equipment is not

authorized, a required service or an IP address of an Internet host is obtained via said access network connected to the Internet.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein if said user equipment is not authorized the access controller is arranged to query a server of said access network in response to the query.

13. An access controller for use in a communication system, comprises:

 a user equipment;

 an access network to which said user equipment is attachable, said access controller being connectable to said access network;

 and a domain, wherein said access controller is arranged to receive a query from said user equipment for a service provided by said domain, or a patent practice service accessible via said domain, to check if said user equipment is authorized and, if so, to permit said user equipment to obtain said service from or via said domain.

14. A controller as claimed in claim 13, wherein said access controller is arranged to authorize said user equipment by communication with an authorization server function.

15. A controller as claimed in claim 13, wherein said access controller is arranged to provide an authorization function if the query received from said user equipment identifies said access controller.

16. A controller as claimed in claim 13, wherein if said user equipment is not authorized, the access controller is arranged to query a server of said access network in response to the query.

17. A communication method, comprising:

receiving a query at an access controller from user equipment attached to an access network for a service provided by a domain or a service accessible via said domain;

checking if said user equipment is authorized; and

if so, permitting said user equipment to obtain said service from or via said domain.

18. A communication system, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a query at an access controller

from user equipment attached to an access network for a service provided by a domain or a service accessible via said domain;

checking means for checking if said user equipment is authorized; and

if so, permitting means for permitting said user equipment to obtain said service from or via said domain.